

Sportfishing Regulations 2015-16 Amendments—Rule Action



Fish Program

Presentation Outline

- Rule process and notebook materials
- Sportfishing rules recommendations
- Commission questions
- Main motion
- Amendments

Timeline and Public Involvement

- April 25-June 15 Accept proposals
166 proposals received
 - 32 proposals recommended for further consideration
 - 46 proposals not recommended
- August 21-December 1 Public comment received
More than 750 written comments received
- September 26-27 Brief Commission
- December 12-13 Public Hearing
- January 9-10 Commission action
- July 1, 2015 Rules take effect

Notebook Materials

- Summary sheet with draft main motion language
- 2015-16 Sportfishing Rule Change Proposals
- CR-102 and recommended WAC revisions
- Supplemental materials

Region Approach

- Columbia Basin Wide – Chris Donley
- Region 1 – John Whalen
- Region 2 – Jeff Korth
- Region 3 – John Easterbrooks
- Region 5 – Cindy LeFleur

Columbia Basin Wide Proposals



Group "A" – Adopt Rules as Proposed

Adopt as presented at the September Commission Meeting

- 3. Black Friday trout opener
- 4. Tenkara fly fishing gear
- 6. Statewide general walleye rules

Group “B” Adopt Rules as Modified

- 1. Technical changes
- 2. Remove internal combustion motor prohibition on small streams
 - Ensured the CR102 WAC documents were revised to accurately reflect the changes contained within the CES document and online (e.g. sturgeon rules: moved them from Freshwater Exceptions to the Sturgeon WAC so they are all in one place).
 - New issue: Rock Creek (Adams/Whitman counties) “George Knott Road” was changed to “Jordan Knott Road” based on recent information (technical change).

Group "B" Adopt Rules as Modified

- 5. Stream Strategy for the Columbia Basin
 - Most proposed rules remain as presented at the September Commission meeting
 - Ensured the CR102 WAC documents were revised to accurately reflect the changes contained within the CES document and online.
 - Major Changes
 1. Mandatory hatchery steelhead retention
 - Limit increased to 3 fish across Columbia Basin streams (except Tucannon River)
 2. Kalama River – open additional area
 3. Remove mandatory retention of hatchery steelhead on Snake River rule concurrence
 4. Modified proposed retention and mandatory hatchery steelhead retention rules on Grande Ronde River

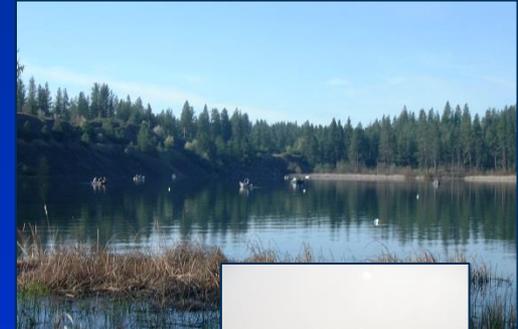
Group "C" Do Not Adopt

- 7. Modify some year-round lakes to a March 1 opener
 - Rule intended to increase public interest in early spring lake openings for hatchery trout
 - Public comment predominantly opposed
 - Staff recommend retaining current regulations

Questions?



Region 1



Group "A" – Adopt Rules as Proposed

Adopt as presented at the September Commission Meeting

- 8. Snake River sturgeon
- 9. Spring and Blue lakes year-round season

Group "B" Adopt Rules as Modified

- 5. Stream Strategy for the Columbia Basin
Region 1, Snake River mandatory steelhead retention
 - Removed mandatory hatchery steelhead retention
 - Reasons for modification
 - Concurrent regulations strategy in boundary waters (WA/ID)
--lessen the confusion on boundary waters regulations
 - Emphasize mandatory hatchery steelhead retention in terminal area fisheries (tributaries)

Group "B" Options Provided

5. Stream Strategy for the Columbia Basin Region 1, Grande Ronde (Asotin Co.)

- **Option 1:** Do not adopt the proposed changes for the Grande Ronde River; maintain the current regulations.
- **Option 2:** Adopt the proposal as submitted, including allowing steelhead retention of up to 3 hatchery (adipose clipped) fish from the mouth to the County Road Bridge. Also require mandatory steelhead retention from the County Road Bridge upstream to the Oregon State Line and all tributaries except the Wenaha River (upper management zone).
- **Option 3:** Adopt a modified proposal, with mandatory hatchery steelhead retention of up to 3 hatchery (adipose clipped) fish from January 1 through April 15 for both management zones (mouth to State line).

Group "B" Options Provided

5. Stream Strategy: Grande Ronde (Asotin Co.)

- Staff Recommendation

Option 3: Adopt a modified proposal, with mandatory hatchery steelhead retention of up to 3 hatchery (adipose clipped) fish from January 1 through April 15 for both management zones (mouth to State line).

- Considerations

- Local economic issues/ concerns
- Unique angling opportunity and crowding in the lower 2.5 miles (lower river mgmt. zone)
- Up river (Oregon) steelhead run timing & harvest opportunity

Questions?



Region 2



Group "A" – Adopt Rules as Proposed

Adopt as presented at the September Commission meeting

- 10. Extend fishing opportunity through the month of October
- 11. Eastern brook trout limit removed
- 12. Upper and lower Green lakes season adjustment
- 13. Molson Lake daily limit reduced from 5 to 2 fish

Group "A" – Adopt Rules as Proposed

Adopt as presented at the September Commission meeting

- 14. Implement year-round season and statewide general rules for selected lakes to manage for mixed species populations
- 15. Big Beaver, Beth, and Little Beaver lakes fishery enhancement
- 16. Rufus Woods lake –eliminate chumming

Group "A" – Adopt Rules as Proposed

Adopt as presented at the September Commission Meeting

- 17. Upper Wheeler Reservoir
- 18. Wapato Lake
- 19. Washburn Lake Eastern brook trout fishery

Questions?



Region 3



Group "A" – Adopt Rules as Proposed

Adopt as presented at the September Commission Meeting

- 20. Two-pole fishing opportunities
- 21. Cle Elum Lake adjust size limit and daily limits for kokanee and remove daily limit for lake trout, brown trout, and eastern brook trout
- 22. McCabe Pond

Group "A" – Adopt Rules as Proposed

Adopt as presented at the September Commission Meeting

- 23. Kachess and Keechelus kokanee daily limit
- 24. Naches River: increase catch and release opportunity

Questions?



L. Cle Elum "Slot Limit" Kokanee/Sockeye

Photo Credit: Mike Carey

Region 5



Group "A" – Adopt Rules as Proposed

Adopt as presented at the September Commission Meeting

- 26. Elochoman River opener
- 27. Lake Scanewa
- 28. Little Klickitat River
- 29. Open South Rowland Lake year-round

Group "A" – Adopt Rules as Proposed

Adopt as presented at the September Commission Meeting

- 30. Elochoman, South Fork Toutle, and Green rivers – remove barbless hook requirement seasonally
- 31. Salmon Creek – expand area available to fishing for hatchery steelhead from 72nd Avenue Bridge to 182nd Avenue Bridge

Group "B" Adopt Rules As Modified

- 5. Stream Strategy for the Columbia Basin

Region 5, Kalama River

- Opens the area "Kalama Falls upstream to source" under general statewide rules
 - 2 fish
 - 8 inch minimum
- Provides additional opportunity

Group “B” Adopt Rules As Modified

- 25. Cowlitz two-pole and barbed hook fishery
 - Modifies lower boundary as the Lexington Bridge instead of the Cowlitz River mouth.
 - Aligns with the current two-pole lower boundary, which is in effect year-round.
 - Reduces interception of non-Cowlitz steelhead in the lower river.

Group "B" Adopt Rules As Modified

- 32. Swift Reservoir
 - Replaces maximum size limit with "only hatchery trout may be retained."
 - Beginning this year, all hatchery rainbow trout will be adipose clipped.
 - Provides protection for juvenile outmigrants and adult steelhead that are unmarked.

Questions?



Main Motion

Move to adopt permanent amendments to:

- WAC 220-55-220 Two-pole endorsement.
- WAC 220-56-105 River mouth definitions.
- WAC 220-56-210 Fly fishing.
- WAC 220-56-282 Sturgeon – Areas, seasons, limits and unlawful acts.
- WAC 220-310-175 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules – General rules.
- WAC 220-310-185 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules – Southwest.
- WAC 220-310-195 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules --Eastside.
- WAC 220-310-200 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules – Columbia River.

as presented by staff

Amendments

Group "A" Adopt Rules as Proposed

26 Rules

- Basin wide: 3,4,6
- Region 1: 8,9
- Region 2: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
- Region 3: 20, 21, 22, 23, 24
- Region 5: 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

Amendments

Group "B" Adopt Rules as Modified

- 1. Technical changes
- 2. Remove internal combustion motors prohibition on small streams
- 25. Cowlitz two-pole and barbed hooks fishery
- 32. Swift Reservoir

Amendments

Group "B" Adopt Rules as Modified

5. Stream Strategy for the Columbia Basin

- Mandatory Steelhead Retention
- Kalama River – open area addition
- Remove Mandatory retention on Snake River – rule concurrence

Amendments

Group "B" Options Provided

5. Stream Strategy for the Columbia Basin,

- Grande Ronde River (Asotin County)
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Amendments

Group "C" Do Not Adopt

- 7. Modify some year-round lakes to a March 1 opener